

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polypeptide comprising more than one S3 peptides comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID No: 1, wherein at least two of the S3 peptides are separated by a linking sequence cleavable by a protease.

2. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the S3 peptides are in tandem repeat.

3. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising 2 to 10 S3 peptides.

4. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising two S3 peptides.

5. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising three S3 peptides.

6. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising four S3 peptides.

7. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 comprising eight S3 peptides.

Claims 8 and 9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim [[8]] 1 wherein at least one of the linking sequence is cleavable by acid digestion.

11. (Original) The polypeptide of claim 10 wherein the at least one linking sequence comprises Asp-Pro.

12. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 consisting of the S3 peptides.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ polypeptide of claim 6 which is rS3-4mer (SEQ ID NO: 9) comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:9, having a linking sequence cleavable by a protease.

14. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 any one tagged with a detectable label.

15. (Currently Amended) The polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the more than one S3 peptide is tagged with a detectable label.

16. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 15 wherein the label is detectable by fluorescence.

Claims 17 – 31 (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 1 immobilized on a solid medium.

33. (Original) The peptide of claim 15 immobilized on a solid medium.

34. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 33 wherein the solid medium is agarose.

Claim 35 (Canceled)

36. (Previously Presented) A commercial package comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and instructions for its use in detecting LPS-containing bacteria in a sample.

Claim 37 (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) A commercial package comprising the polypeptide of claim 32 and instructions for its use for removing LPS or LPS-containing bacteria from a sample.